

The reality has changed since the sixties and seventies. We now have 24-7 cable TV, and everything seems to be momentarily disclosed. We can't continue. We need an independent investigation of this extremely important issue of Russia's involvement in our national elections.

RETURN STABILITY AND PEACE TO SYRIA

(Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage at the chemical attack in Syria on April 4, 2017, that killed upwards of 70 civilians, including children.

I am proud to represent many Syrian Americans in my congressional district in Charleston, West Virginia. They share their concerns with me on a regular basis.

This type of violence is a regular occurrence in Syria. Hospitals, markets, schools, bus stations, warehouses—none of these places are off limits for bombing and destruction by Bashar al-Assad and his allies. The slaughter of innocent life will not end unless the United States of America takes the lead.

Peace in Syria is impossible while Bashar al-Assad remains in control. He has proven this time and again by his reckless and evil use of chemical weapons and other cruel tools of war on his own people. We must establish safe zones for innocent civilians.

I call upon President Trump and other world leaders to do whatever they reasonably can to end these atrocious attacks on the innocent, and return stability and peace to Syria.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION MUST STAND UP FOR SYRIAN CHILDREN NOW

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I could not leave this place, the most powerful lawmaking body in the world, in the season of Easter and Passover and sacrifice without bringing to the attention of my colleagues that children are dying. The children in Syria are suffering from the bombing and the vileness of President Assad and the chemical attack, where children and babies are struggling to breath.

This Congress has to act. We must join those who want an infusion of emergency dollars.

Where is our heart.

And then the famine in Sub-Saharan Africa, where there are more displaced persons than we have seen in history. Sixty thousand have escaped to Kenya, and children and women are dying. In the name of our former colleague, the Honorable Mickey Leland, who died in 1989, taking grain to the famine area in Sub-Saharan Africa, we must act now.

As a founder of the Congressional Children's Caucus myself, I cannot stand here and allow the children to die. This Congress must immediately issue emergency funds that appropriators such as Congresswoman LEE are putting forward. We must go to the region now and say what America is going to do. And the Trump administration must stand up for children now.

HONORING MICHIGAN FARMERS HELPING THOSE AFFECTED BY WILDFIRES IN AMERICAN HEARTLAND

(Mr. MOOLENAAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, today another farm convoy left Michigan and headed south to help those suffering in America's heartland, where wildfires have burned more than 1 million acres in four States.

This convoy, and those like it in days gone by and the days to come, is the work of the amazing farming community in my district and across the State of Michigan.

They have donated trucks, trailers, and time to drive supplies to the affected areas. They have donated food and fencing to help farmers recover and rebuild. They have donated care packages with candy and cards to care for the hurting souls.

Many volunteers are staying and helping in the devastated communities. In fact, tomorrow, two young men from Ogemaw County, Brady and Keaton, are scheduled to travel with 4-H kids from Michigan's Thumb area to volunteer their skills and help build fencing in Kansas.

The overwhelmingly and generous efforts of the Michigan farming community, in response to this tragedy, represent the best of America. I pray for God's blessing on all those involved as they help with this crisis.

UNDETECTABLE FIREARMS MODERNIZATION

(Mr. KIHUEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, in 1988, Congress realized the danger posed by guns that can pass through security checkpoints undetected, and passed the Undetectable Firearms Act.

The act, signed by President Reagan, has since been reauthorized under every single President, both Democrats and Republicans alike.

When this bill originally became law, fully plastic guns were science fiction. But, today, plans for plastic guns are available online and can be produced at home with no technical expertise. Unfortunately, the Undetectable Firearms Act hasn't been updated since 1988, and glaring gaps exist.

That is why today I am introducing the Undetectable Firearms Modernization Act. This bill will make modest

changes to the original act to more fully adhere to the spirit of the law.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be working to ensure that terrorists and criminals can't walk through security checkpoints with firearms undetected.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

(Mr. GAETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, 93 percent of Americans support the legalization of doctor-prescribed medical marijuana—93 percent. But despite this widespread public support, marijuana remains classified as a schedule I drug, the same as LSD or heroin.

This harms low-income communities each year, it turns thousands of citizens into felons, and it punishes people who are sick and looking for medical help.

I think of Rayann, a young lady in my district with juvenile refractory epilepsy. She has seizures every day. Other treatments failed, but medical marijuana helped improve her condition. I thought of her when I worked on, and passed, Florida's Compassionate Medical Cannabis Act.

Marijuana must be moved to schedule III, which will make it easier to conduct research into its medical uses. It will allow businesses to work with banks instead of looking over their shoulders in fear of a Federal raid, and it will keep States from being at odds with Federal law.

Today I am proud to introduce legislation that will reclassify marijuana as a schedule III drug. I look forward to working with my colleagues. America is watching, and now we must act.

HONORING JOHN HERSCHEL GLENN

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the American flag on our Nation's Capitol is flying at half-mast to honor the life of American hero, Ohio Senator and Colonel John Herschel Glenn, being laid to rest today at Arlington National Cemetery.

What a human being, what a patriot, what an American hero, and what a marine whose raw courage was evidenced time and time again. A devoted, faithful husband to his beautiful wife, Annie, and father and grandfather, his life and works keep giving to us and our world.

John was a highly decorated war veteran, a Marine Corps colonel who completed 56 combat missions on the Pacific front alone during World War II, and then served in the Korean conflict. He was awarded six Distinguished Flying Crosses and 18 clusters on his Air Medal.

At the dawn of the space age, Senator Glenn became the first human being to orbit our planet Earth in 1962 on Friendship 7.

Can you imagine his awe as he became the first human to observe planet Earth suspended aloft in the heavens with endless space beyond?

In 1974, John Glenn was elected to the U.S. Senate, and undertook many tough missions in his life, but none could have been more piercing than when he was given the weighty task of informing the children of Senator Robert F. Kennedy of that Senator's fateful assassination.

John Glenn's life embodies the words "devotion," "honor," "patriotism," and "bravery." He never stopped giving. At age 77, he chose to join the team of astronauts who were launched into space on the Discovery.

Upon retirement from the U.S. Senate in 1999, after a quarter century of service, he dedicated his years to founding and raising funds for the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at the Ohio State University.

In recognition of his incredible and generous life, I will place in the RECORD the remarks of Vice President Joe Biden at a remembrance ceremony held in Columbus, Ohio, recently, as our State honored his life and legacy.

May the angels lead John Glenn into paradise and give peace to his family. May eternal rest grant unto you, dearest Senator and Colonel Glenn. You gave all that you could possibly give, and America is forever grateful.

May I ask my colleagues to stand with me for a moment of silence in remembrance of Senator John Glenn.

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COMMENDING DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF JOHN SCHOTT

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts of Deputy Fire Chief John Schott, from the Carlinville, Illinois, Fire Department. Deputy Schott has gone above and beyond the call of duty in his efforts to assist the neighboring Morrisonville, Illinois, Fire Department.

On October 22, Deputy Schott was one of the first witnesses to a two-vehicle crash and applied first aid to one of the drivers involved in the accident. While on the scene, Schott could not help but notice that the emergency services from the Morrisonville-Palmer Fire Protection District lacked the proper hydraulic extraction tools, more commonly known as the Jaws of Life.

Deputy Schott's efforts did not end that day. After the crash, he began his mission to equip the Morrisonville firefighters with the suitable tools they would need for any future emergencies. By making several phone calls, Schott was able to locate a set of the Jaws of Life and communicate the Morrisonville firefighters' need to a generous contact who gladly donated the tool.

Firefighters from Morrisonville are currently training with the equipment as a need for their use, thankfully, has not yet presented itself since the donation.

Deputy Chief Schott's dedication to the betterment of a department other than his own is commendable.

Thank you, Deputy Schott, for your service, and may God bless our first responders.

ATTACKS IN SYRIA WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my revulsion at the gas attacks killing innocent Syrian civilians. One of the responses from this Congress should be when we get back, as soon as possible, we pass the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2017. It is sponsored by myself and Chairman ROYCE. It is named in honor of the courageous former Syrian photographer known as "Caesar," who testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in 2014 about the Assad regime's torture of Syrian civilians. This legislation passed the House in November 2016 by voice vote but didn't pass the other body.

This bill requires the President to impose new sanctions on anyone who does business with or provides financing to the Government of Syria, including Syrian intelligence and security services, or the Central Bank of Syria. It sanctions anyone that provides aircraft or spare parts for aircraft to Syria's airlines, including financing. It sanctions anyone who does business with transportation or telecom sectors controlled by the Syrian Government or anyone who supports Syria's energy industry.

Mr. Speaker, we need to send a strong message to the murderous Assad regime and a strong message to Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah that we will not tolerate attacks on innocent civilians.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SID MARTIN BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

(Mr. YOHO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize the Sid Martin Biotechnology Institute, a leading biotechnology incubator headquartered in Alachua, Florida, in conjunction with the University of Florida, in my home district. The Sid Martin Biotechnology Institute focuses on promoting the growth of innovative, early-stage bioscience and biotechnology companies and technology-based economic development in and around my district.

Over the past 20 years, this institute has worked with more than 100 startup

companies in biotechnology, biomedicine, and bioagriculture, and it has created over 200 high-tech jobs. The survival rate of the companies in this program have a 93 percent survival rate, creating a successful business community in north central Florida area.

Their dedication to these causes has not gone unnoticed. Recently, Sid Martin Biotechnology Institute was awarded the Randall M. Whaley Incubator of the Year award for 2017, the highest award given by the International Business Innovation Association. This institute was named Incubator of the Year among more than 7,500 incubators worldwide. This is the second time the Sid Martin Biotechnology Institute has received this award, and, additionally, they have also been awarded Technology/Science Incubator of the Year.

I would like to congratulate them on their accomplishment and thank them for their positive and meaningful contributions to Florida's Third Congressional District.

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION NEEDS TO BE ESTABLISHED CONCERNING RUSSIA CONNECTION

(Mr. RASKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, the gassing of civilians is an atrocity, a human rights violation, and a war crime. Assad's chemical gassing of his own people took place just a few days after the White House said that it would be silly to try to dislodge President Assad from power in Syria.

Somehow, we have to disentangle and disentrail ourselves from Putin's friend, Assad, and all of the bullies and dictators and authoritarians on Earth who are a threat to their own people.

Last week 75,000 people marched in Russia against corruption and human rights violations. We should be on the side of the Russian people who are trying to liberate themselves from human rights violations and murder and political corruption in their country.

We need an independent investigation of the political, financial, military, and diplomatic invasion of America with this Russian connection. We need to restore our moral leadership in the world as the champion of human rights.

FUND THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FASO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join a number of my colleagues in strong support of the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities. These venerable institutions, which both recently celebrated their 50th anniversaries, are a cornerstone of American cultural expressions. Sadly, they are also under attack.